Oral History

My father side of the family comes from Dublin, Ireland. We are the race of Black Irish man, who is known to have Jet black hair with Irish features. My great-great grandfather came on a boat from Ireland to live in Boston, Massachusetts. My grandfather was a Navigator for the B-29 aircraft during WWII. When I was younger he explained how the navigators during his time relied on star navigation because they did not have the instruments that we have now. He was shot down over Italy by the Germans when he became a POW. He was in captivity for two years. My grandfather said that the Germans feed him well and did not torture him while being a POW. My grandfather would trade his cigarette rations for chocolate bars because he did not smoke. After the war ended he returned home and had four more children (total 9 children). My father said, his father, was strict and very religious.

My mother’s side of the family comes from Tscuba, Japan. Although she was born in Tokyo, she was raised in Boston. My mother’s parents meet during WWII when my grandfather was stationed in Tokyo. Although, at the time, my grandparents could not communicate with each other they feel in love and married shortly after. They are both living and happily married. My grandmother told me stories about the bombing and shelters they would get into when they would hear the planes during the war. Food was scarce during this time because most of the food would go to the soldiers who were fighting in the war.

My parents meet at a party during high school in Lynn, Massachusetts. They dated for 6 years before they decided to get married. My father was offered a teaching position on a Indian reservation in Connecticut. He then traveled to Italy where he taught English to a rich Italian family. My parents then moved to Germany when they were offered a DoDEA teaching position. My parents had my sister and I in Augsburg, Germany. The base was closed down and we all moved to Okinawa, Japan.